

CLAIMS

1. A method of selecting an operating system at a target device in communication with a server, comprising:
- 5 initiating a network bootstrap program at the target device;
sending a bootstrap list command from the target device to the server;
receiving an operating systems list of at least one operating system prior to executing an operating system at the target device; and
selecting a target operating system from the operating systems list.
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2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
receiving instructions for the target operating system.
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3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
requesting the instructions for the target operating system from the server.
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4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
booting the target operating system based on the instructions.
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5. The method of claim 1 wherein the operating systems list includes a default operating system.
6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
relocating the network bootstrap program after the target operating system is selected.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the target operating system is determined from a configuration file of the target device.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the target operating system is selected by a user of the target device.

5 9. The method of claim 8 further comprising:
determining from a user profile, at least one -available operating system;
and
including the user-available operating system with the operating systems list.

10 10. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
determining from a target device profile, at least one device-available operating system; and
including the device-available operating system with the operating systems list.

15 11. Computer program product in a computer usable medium for selecting an operating system at a target device, comprising:
means for initiating network bootstrap program code at the target device;
means for receiving a command requesting an operating systems list of at
20 least one operating system;
means for sending the operating systems list to the target device before an operating system is executed at the target device; and
means for receiving a selection of a target operating system from the operating systems list.

25 12. The program of claim 11 further comprising:
means for sending the target operating system to the target device.

13. The program of claim 11 further comprising:
means for determining a default operating system.

5 14. The program of claim 11 further comprising:
means for relocating the network bootstrap program code after the target
operating system is selected.

10 15. The program of claim 11 further comprising:
means for determining the target operating system from a configuration
file of the target device.

15 16. The program of claim 11 further comprising:
means for receiving the selection of the target operating system from a
user of the target device.

20 17. The program of claim 16 further comprising:
means for determining at least one operating system available to the user.

25 18. A network data processing system comprising:
means for initiating a network bootstrap program at a target device;
means for sending a command requesting an operating systems list of at
least one operating system;
means for receiving the operating systems list prior to executing an
operating system at the target device; and
means for selecting a target operating system from the operating systems
list at the target device.

19. The system of claim 18 further comprising:
means for receiving the target operating system at the target device.

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20. The system of claim 18 further comprising:
means for executing the target operating system at the target device.

21. The system of claim 18 further comprising:
means for relocating the network bootstrap program after the target
operating system is selected.

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22. The system of claim 18 further comprising:
means for determining the target operating system from a configuration
file of the target device.

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23. The system of claim 18 further comprising:
means for determining the target operating system from input of a user of
the target device.